

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method for managing intellectual property rights in an intellectual property arising from one or more than one contract document, comprising the steps of:

preparing one or more than one rights questionnaire having one or more than one question designed to elicit critical information about ownership rights in intellectual property;

packaging the one or more than one contract document and pertinent legal questions comprising one or more than one legal question pertaining to the intellectual property;

directing the review of the one or more than one contract document and the one or more pertinent legal questions;

acquiring responses to the pertinent legal questions; and
storing the acquired responses in a database to permit searching the acquired responses; and

wherein the step of directing the review further comprises prompting selection of one or more special format answers.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the packaging step comprises the steps of:

initializing a management program and creating data records comprising one or more than one data record having information pertaining to the intellectual property;

generating the pertinent legal questions; linking the data records to the pertinent legal questions;

displaying a hierarchical tree representing the linkage between the data records and the pertinent legal questions; and routing the one or more than one contract document, the pertinent legal questions, and the data records to a reviewer.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the generating step comprises offering choice of rights questionnaires, receiving a request for one or more than one rights questionnaire, and generating the one or more than one rights questionnaire requested.

24. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the generating step comprises automatically generating one or more than one rights questionnaire based upon the information in the data records.

25. (canceled)

26. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the directing step comprises sending the one or more than one contract document to a legal source for review and receiving acquired responses to the pertinent legal questions.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method for managing ownership rights in an intellectual property arising from one or more than one

contract document, comprising the steps of, under the control of a user system:

accessing a computer network;

initializing a management program and creating data records and preparing a package having one or more than one rights questionnaire and the one or more than one contract document;

routing the package for review, the rights questionnaire having one or more than one question; and

receiving responses to the one or more than one question and storing the responses in a database; and

wherein the step of routing the package for review further comprises prompting selection of one or more special format answers from pull-down boxes or radio buttons.

29. (original) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of searching the responses stored in the database.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the one or more than one contract document and the pertinent legal questions are sent via email and the responses are received via email.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the emails are encrypted and compressed.

34. (canceled)